GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3100
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2008
INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN STEEL SECTOR
Jogi Shri Ajit

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of investment/expenditure on steel related research and development works by various public and private sector enterprises alongwith the outcome thereof;

(b) the present status of ongoing research and development projects in public and private sectors;

(c) the names of such projects which are under consideration;

(d) whether the Government proposes to increase the investment on research and development in order to manufacture world class quality of steel;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the total investment proposed to be made in public and private steel manufacturing units during the current year and the next three years?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) Research & Development (R&D) in steel sector in India is pursued mainly at the in-house R&D centres of Steel Authority of India Ltd.(SAIL), Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) and Tata Steel Ltd. (TSL). Details of expenditure on R&D in these companies during last 3 years are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	R&D Expenditure		
	SAIL	RINL	TSL
2005-06	63.48	10.46	25.00
2006-07	76.85	11.68	33.25
2007-08	101.86	17.93	34.85

In other steel plants, new R&D laboratories are being set up or the existing facilities are being augmented.

As per the available information, major achievements in R&D in SAIL, RINL and Tata Steel Ltd. during last three years are annexed.

(b)&(c): The above mentioned companies have taken up a large number of R&D projects which primarily focus on following areas:

i) Productivity improvements

ii) Energy conservation

iii) Beneficiation of raw material

iv) Product development

v) Quality improvement

(d)&(e): Yes, Sir. Government has made a budgetary allocation of Rs.118 crore during the 11th Five Year Plan period for the first time for promoting R&D activities which inter-alia includes quality upgradation also.

(f) As per available information, total investment incurred/proposed by the above mentioned companies during the current financial year is as under:

SAIL: Rs.69.11 crores (April-Sept;08)

RINL: Rs.14.20 crores (April-Nov;08)

TSL : Rs.35.00 crores

Future investment in public and private sector steel units during the next 3 years will depend on the projects and product development activities to be taken up in subsequent years.